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SOURCE Borba.HITS INSUFFICIENT EXPLOITATION OF WASTE IN CROATIA

Zagreb, 9 February -- The Croatian Economic Council recently made a study of the exploitation of waste materials in Croatia. It found that the plan for the purchase of rags was fulfilled only 38 percent, old cast metal 48 percent, copper 44 percent, glass 86 percent, and paper 68 percent.

The fruit-processing industry of Croatia produces about 650 tons of waste per year, which is lost completely. It is estimated that 50,000 tons of waste are produced per year from the total amount of grapes processed. Of the waste from grapes, only 1,600 tons are used for making brandy. If all the waste were exploited, 875 tons of tartaric acid, 1,200 tons of oil (from the seeds), 400 tons of tannin, and 20,000 tons of fodder would be salvaged.

It is estimated that 250 tons of bristles, about 2 million hoofs, and 550 tons of blood are lost yearly. Only 70 tons of blood per year are used for the production of glue.

The processing of sunflowers yields 4,000 tons of hulls per year; these are used mainly as fuel. About 2,400 tons of cellulose could be produced from 4,000 tons of hulls.

In 1949 sawmills in Croatia produced 424,000 cubic meters of waste, 35 percent of the total timber processed. Of this waste, 100,000 cubic meters were lost altogether, and the rest was used by the sawmills themselves or distributed to the population for fuel.

The Croatian rubber industry uses 700 tons of old rubber [per year], but 500 additional tons of old rubber remain unexploited.

The Croatian cotton industry produces 450,000 tons of waste per year, and the waste produced by the wool industry is much greater.

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Previously, wool was removed from sheep by means of chemicals; now automatic shears are used. It is estimated that 130 tons of high-grade wool per year will be sheared in Croatia by this method.

At present, about 900 tons of rags are purchased in Croatia per year, although the purchase of rags could be increased by 1,000 tons.

The percentage of waste in the shoe industry fluctuates between 2.5 and 5 percent yearly, which amounts to 187,000 pairs of shoes, or 90 million dinars' worth.

Croatia imports about 180,000 raw hides per year, from which 90,000 kilograms of industrial grease could be acquired if .5 kilogram of fat were removed from each hide.

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